

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CU-02 AGRE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 COME-00 DHA-02 ORM-02

HEW-04 /098 W

-----051301Z 066225 /50

R 051154Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7271

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: SEBE CLAIMS U.S. AID

REF: PRETORIA 144,

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PRESS OF APRIL 4 REPORTS THAT ON HIS RETURN FROM U.S. CHIEF MINISTER SEBE TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE IN EAST LONDON THAT HE "HAS BEEN GRANTED DIRECT AID FOR AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION BY OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR AMERICAN SOURCES." HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT BECAUSE OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE TOWARD INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, HE COULD NOT REVEAL SOURCE, AMOUNT OR FORM OF AID. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HOWEVER, HE REAFFIRMED THAT AID WAS FROM USG AS WELL AS PRIVATE SOURCES. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE MEETINGS "WITH TOP MEN WERE HELD SECRETLY BECAUSE OF THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH SOUTH AFRICA." PRESS REPORTS SPECULATED THAT SEBE WAS SPEAKING OF

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PRESIDENT CARTER AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

2. SEBE REPORTEDLY TOLD CONFERENCE THAT USG ATTITUDES HAD CHANGED IN LAST FOUR MONTHS AND THAT "CLIMATE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IS VERY TENSE SO...THAT WHEN YOU ARE GIVEN AID THE PEOPLE...DON'T WANT TO BE IDENTIFIED." HE SAID THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION "MEANT BUSINESS", BUT ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR

YOUNG WAS PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF COMMUNISTS BY ASKING AMERICAN INTERESTS TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

3. EARLIER PRESS ACCOUNTS (SEE TRANSMITTAL SLIP APRIL 5, 1977 TO DEPARTMENT AND CAPE TOWN ONLY) REPORT THAT SEBE TOLD US AUDIENCES THAT SAG WAS ONLY DOBY HELPING SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS AND USG IS "STANDING AGAINST" THE SAG'S EFFORTS. HE CRITICIZED CARTER AND YOUNG FOR MISUNDERSTANDING SOUTH AFRICA, EQUATING "U.S. SOLUTIONS AND AFRICAN SOLUTIONS...SO THEY BLUNDER IN." ANOTHER ACCOUNT HAS SEBE TELLING PRESS CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE THAT MAJORITY RULE "IS NOT AS GLAMOROUS AS IT SEEMS...WHEN YOU ANALYSE IT PRACTICALLY." HE ADDED THAT "MY FIRST CONCERN IS THAT EVERY PERSON HAS A MEAL A DAY."
END UNCLASSIFIED

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT; POST WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION OR GUIDANCE ON LEVEL OF CONTACT OR COMMITMENT SEBE MAY HAVE RECEIVED. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT HE'S TRYING HARD TO KEEP HEAD ABOVE. HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS RECENTLY BEEN CHARGED WITH MISHANDLING ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES, WITH RESULTANT STARVATION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED CHILDREN AND SEVERE DISLOCATION OF SEVERAL THOUSAND PERSONS. HE NOT ONLY HAS SOME INTERNAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BUT IS NOW FACING RENEWED CALL FOR ANNEXATION INTO TRANSKEI. HE HAS LONG SOUGHT INTERNATIONAL, ESPECIALLY U.S., RECOGNITION AND ASSISTANCE, AND, FOLLOWING ON HEELS OF BUTHELEZI/CARTER MEETING, HE MAY HAVE FELT HE COULD ADD FEATHER TO HIS CAP IN SIMILAR MANNER. HE IS CERTAINLY MISREPRESENTING HIS CONTACTS WITH USG AND WE COULD BE SUBJECTED TO INQUIRIES FOR CLARIFICATION.BOWDLER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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